

CROPS AND BUSINESS.

Careful Observers Report from all Parts of the State.

THE FACTS ARE NOT AS FAVORABLE

As might be hoped, but show some improvement on the past two years. Some Special Influences which affect a few localities—Great Unanimity in the Reports from all Over West Virginia and Eastern Ohio as to the Outlook for the Year.

The INTELLIGENCER is indebted to R. G. Dun & Co.'s local agency for the following reports as to the crop outlook and business prospects. The reports, made by competent observers, bear out former expressions of a less comprehensive character, and while they show perceptible improvement in some respects, are not bright so far as they affect the agricultural portions of West Virginia and Eastern Ohio.

Crop and trade reports from some sixty points, covering a large portion of West Virginia and eastern Ohio, indicate much damage to vegetation from the severe frosts early in the season and from the long continued drought since, while in some localities the ranges of wheat, corn and oats have been considerable. The reports indicate that the hay and oats will be very much below the average, while wheat generally is not quoted above one-half a crop. This, in the strictly agricultural sections, makes a blue outlook, and traders generally report business in a depressed condition, but in all the manufacturing centers and in the oil producing sections, especially, matters are brighter and business in a better condition.

In the Wheeling district, the mills and almost all manufacturing industries are running in full, with good prices ruling and recent advances in wages tend to strengthen the feeling that the improvement is expected to be lasting. Banks report a good demand for money, with collections improving. Taking it all through, business is much improved over this time last year, and if we get the needed rain, matters in the agricultural sections will be very much improved.

WEST VIRGINIA.

Moundsville, Marshall County.—Crops have been looking well lately. Wheat will not be more than half a crop; was frozen out badly last winter, and dry weather had a bad effect. Corn and dry weather had a bad effect. Corn will make a good crop, but will be late; oats thin and short. On the hills there will be plenty of fruit, but on the low lands nearly all was killed by frost; there will be an abundance of apples. The business outlook is fair for a good year's trade. Business has been slow, but promises better than last year, and is getting on the old footing again. Traders are doing more business now than at this time last year.

Now Cumberland, Hancock County.—Wheat, grass and oats will not make half a crop; corn is a month late and it will require favorable conditions to make a crop; fruit generally killed by frost. No improvement in business, nor is there likely to be any with the present crop outlook.

Wellburg, Brooke County.—Wheat was badly damaged by frost; will not be more than one-half to two-thirds crop; oats short, may reach three-quarters of a crop; corn mostly killed, seasons of a crop; meadows light and grass short, hay will be about one-half of a crop; fruit, except apples, nearly all killed, promise of a half crop of apples; small fruits and garden plants badly damaged by frosts.

The outlook for business seems a little better than for the last two or three years, but there has not been as great improvement as was anticipated six months ago. Money is not much more plentiful than a year ago and collections are as difficult to make.

Barton, Wetzel County.—Wheat fair, will probably yield an average crop; corn short, much injured by frost, and later by cut worms. Oats bad. Early vegetables were killed by frost.

Business is in better shape and confidence increasing, but the wool and horse markets are very unsatisfactory. Wool is so low it does not pay to raise it, and horses are not in the market; cattle in some demand by local butchers, who depend on the oil country for their sale. Oil excitement is increasing and is felt in all other business.

Fairmont, Marion County.—Drouth has cut meadows very short and late frosts killed much of the fruits and made grain crops late; crops generally will fall off 20 per cent.

Business outlook unusually good; new banks are organizing, new railway contemplated, manufacturing interests growing and a wholesome impetus is felt in general business circles.

Glenview, Gilmer County.—Wheat looks fair; oats about one-half crop, will not amount to much; corn badly damaged by cut worms and frost; hay will not be over one-half crop; apples promise well.

Business outlook very dull; there seems to be nothing to sell. This is a serious time for the farming class.

Granton, Taylor County.—There will be little hay and oats, almost a total failure; meadows little better than pasture fields ought to be; wheat fair.

New Martinsville, Wayne County.—Wheat, good in places, but generally short; corn, somewhat injured by frost, but recovering; oats, short; potatoes, doing well; rye and barley, small crop; cherries, peaches, plums and small fruits, doing well on low ground, but some wheat injured on the high ground; grass, somewhat stunted. The cereal crops will not be as large as 1894, unless the future conditions are very favorable, and in that event corn and potatoes will be better.

The intense heat has been very destructive to the crops. The business outlook is much better than last year. Oil development has been a factor in the improvement of business.

Phillippi, Barbour County.—The acreage of wheat this year in Barbour is the largest known by perhaps 10 per cent. Wheat was good for a big crop until the frosts, and the crop may be only three-fourths of the average. Corn has suffered from cut worms and freeze, and replanting has been done in parts of the county. Oats, fairly good crop; hay, one-half or three-fourths. Business outlook better than one year ago, but it is not good now. There is not employment enough for the people and money is scarce.

Pickens, Randolph County.—The condition of crops is poor and discouraging, and the business outlook, though improved in the last thirty days, is not as good as desired.

Wrightstown, Monongalia County.—Wheat poor, not more than one-half crop; oats very poor; corn, late, but

with reasonable weather will be good; frost and cut worms did much damage; grass poor and meadows generally nearly worthless; potatoes late and badly injured; fruit badly damaged, but on high land apples and pears look well.

Weston, Lewis County.—Wheat bids fair to make more than an average yield; grass very short, which is hard on a grazing community.

The business outlook is slightly better than last year.

West Union, Doddridge County.—Crops in general not more than one-half, wheat scarcely that; reasonable rains will help last vegetation.

Business is reviving owing to local oil speculation. Money is scarce and hard to get, and farmers still complain of hard times.

Worthington, Wood County.—Crops are in tolerably good condition in most places.

The business outlook is very dull.

Shinnston, Harrison County.—Wheat, one-half; corn, oats and grass about the same proportion. Apples and other fruit will be nearly all killed. The business outlook is discouraging.

Stumpson, Taylor County.—Wheat, one-half crop; oats, almost an entire failure; grass, about one-half crop; corn, replanted since the frost, looks well now; apples, a very fair crop; other fruits a failure. Business is dull.

Spencer, Boone County.—Corn, damaged by frost and cut worms; wheat, a larger crop than usual; grass, short and does not look well; meadows are full of cheat, a small yield of grass expected; apples, an abundant crop; small fruits, very little killed by frost; small crops of oats and corn, outlook not good. Business outlook considered good, although money is scarce and the prevailing rate of interest high.

St. Mary's Pleasant County.—Recent rains have greatly encouraged the farmers and a fair all around crop is expected in Pleasant County. Business men, feel encouraged, although the prospect early in the summer was discouraging.

Sistersville, Tyler County.—Wheat, short crop; pastures burned up, but late rains will help greatly; good prospect for fruit of all kinds. Business cannot be better. Sistersville being the centre of the largest oil field in the United States, the community has not felt the hard times.

Sutton, Braxton County.—The principal crop is corn, more than the average acreage, more than average crop; wheat, average acreage and average crop; grass, an unusually good crop is expected, the pastures being in the best condition known for several years, and meadows will show 20 per cent more than average yield; oats, prospects for average as to acreage and yield; potatoes, average crop; apples in a degree to be considered, almost entirely destroyed by frost and young trees killed, and the condition of peaches applies to plums and cherries. Taken altogether, the prospects for the farmers is better than for several years. The business outlook is improving slowly but steadily; lumber moving at fairly good prices, but not so good as two years ago. Cattle are in demand and bringing fair prices, and merchants report trade improved as compared with business six months ago. Locally, improvement is attributed to a desire to the construction of the C. & S. R. railway, which is on its way from Charleston to Clay C. H., within forty-eight miles of Sutton, and the right of way from Clay to this place has been purchased and paid for. There is some oil development in this county on the Little Kanawha river, and prospects for more extensive development in the near future.

Ritchie, C. H., Ritchie County.—Corn, injured by frost and had to be replanted, and cut worms have also damaged the second planting. Wheat is not injured, prospect for good crop; oats, cut short by drouth; apples about three-fourths crop; cherries, one-half; peaches very few; blackberries will be scarce; meadows will not yield one-fourth crop. The early June rains were badly needed. The business situation not good; money very scarce; no sale for horses, cattle or sheep; wool at 12 cents and the farmers dissatisfied. The oil development is the only bright spot in the situation in this county.

Rockport, Wood County.—Fair prospect for all crops except corn; wheat, fine crop; grass short and not good; apples, good crop; other fruits killed by frost. The business outlook is somewhat better.

Rowlesburg, Preston County.—The business outlook is far from encouraging. Hay, less than one-half crop; oats and corn, one-half crop; apples, less than one-half; peaches, one-half; cherries, one-half; plums and pears, about one-tenth the average. The business outlook is good on account of the nearby oil field, which has made business good for two years.

Poca, Putnam County.—Wheat crop will be fair, but not full; grass not very good; corn, probably full crop; potatoes, outlook good; fall crop of apples. Business is improving.

Point Pleasant, Mason County.—Wheat will not be one-half crop; oats and hay almost an entire failure; potatoes, an average crop; corn, planted twice on account of cut worms, but is now doing well. The prospect for a large apple crop was never better; peaches are a failure. Business is improving and will continue to improve. Money is close.

Ravenswood, Jackson County.—Crops are in bad shape. Grass and wheat will be short; cut worms run all the first planted corn, tomatoes, gardens and even tobacco. The damage from this source is unprecedented. The apple crop promises to be the largest in years. Grapes, not over one-half usual product. Strawberries and raspberries, good crop. Late potatoes will be all right. Dry weather has hurt the grass. The business outlook is poor, and no improvement is evident compared with 1894.

Reedy, Boone County.—First planted corn injured by cut worms, but the farmers generally replanted and the outlook for this corn is now good. Boone County has the best wheat outlook of any county in the state. Oats, a good crop expected; potatoes, too dry for a good crop; hay, a poor prospect.

Clarkburg, Harrison County.—Crop condition poorest at this time of year that has been known for many years, owing to frost and drouth; corn had to be replanted. Business outlook not very favorable.

Backhannon, Upshur County.—All crops backward; wheat looks well. Rain is needed.

Rain is scarce, but there is more confidence, and everyone expects better times shortly. I think we will have few business failures the coming year.

Buffalo, Putnam County.—Wheat three-fourths of average crop; corn looks favorable; oats almost an entire failure; cut worms have done much harm. Fruits will yield badly.

Business outlook extremely poor; little money about; nothing doing but

in lumber and little in that. Oil prospects good. If farmers do not have good crops most business concerns will have to close.

Beverly, Randolph County.—Corn a little backward, but otherwise looking well; prospects for a good crop. Oats bid fair to make an extra crop. Winter wheat good; grass starts well; potatoes and garden stuff fall up to the average. The fruit was damaged by frost; apples fair, but peaches, cherries, etc., are ruined.

Business outlook better than for two years. Cattle, sheep and wool are selling better, and these being the principal products this makes business lively.

Addison, Webster County.—Crops, grass good; corn looks well, large little wheat early; oats fine, but not a large acreage; potatoes very good.

Business outlook—Everything improving, but slowly. The lumber industry is on the increase; estimate cut this year, 40,000,000 feet.

Amos, Marion County.—Crops backward on account of late frosts; wheat as a rule very good; fruit poor, about one-third crop of apples, no grapes.

Business outlook—Very good, owing to oil development; building and improving active.

Holdsville, Wood County.—Wheat, not much over half crop; oats, very poor; corn bad for time of year, but not half O. K. with a late fall; potatoes need rain; will not yield over two-thirds crop; apples, big promise, but are falling off badly.

Promises of fair trade. Farmers are all in debt on account of last year's drouth, and will only buy what they need; cannot expect any boom in trade.

Davis, Tucker County.—Never a better prospect for wheat; corn short, owing to late frosts, but thrifty; grass very good and other cereals promising; fruit in some places is killed and in others will be a good crop.

There is a substantial increase in business; outlook very encouraging in lumber, coal and leather.

Elizabeth, Wirt County.—Corn backward; cut worms bad. The acreage was unusually large and a favorable season may produce an average crop. Wheat on high lands a failure; will not be 60 per cent of what it was last year. There will be a very good yield of fruit, except peaches and cherries; hay probably three-fourths of a crop.

The business outlook is not promising, with the farmers selling their wool at 12 cents; no market for horses and dull for all the products of the farm. Farmers are discouraged; trade is not active as at this time last year.

Grantville, Calhoun County.—Large acreage, but owing to frosts and dry weather prospects are only medium. Live stock is scarce and inferior.

The timber business, heretofore important, has been in a large degree abandoned. Business prospects in general are not encouraging.

Jackson C. H., Jackson County.—Some good wheat; general average will not exceed 60 per cent; no oats; very little grass; corn very unpromising; apples fair, but few peaches; live stock scarce. Business outlook not encouraging.

Some lumber is being marketed, but there is little stock to be sold. Business must be done on credit, with poor promise of spring collections.

Terra Alta, Preston County.—Of corn there is never enough raised here to supply the home demand; about the usual acreage, and same of oats and wheat; potatoes, large acreage; buckwheat, the main local crop, will be a larger acreage than the average.

Business outlook is only fair; lumber in better demand; farmers slow to sell wool; a larger amount of bark is being sold than usual; no stock to sell, or very little.

Now Haven, Mason County.—The wheat crop will be below the average, probably about one-half; hay ditto; too early to tell as to corn; most fruits abundant.

The outlook for the coal business is not good; salt business dull; retail trade pretty fair.

EASTERN OHIO.

Bellaire, Belmont County.—Wheat will not make one-half of last year's crop; oats and grass not more than one-half a crop. Corn, potatoes, etc., have not been so backward in twenty-five years at this season of year. Small fruits, poor. Apples, good prospect. The business outlook is better than for some time; mines and factories being worked, and more men employed; the outlook not so discouraging as one year ago.

Clarington, Monroe County.—Wheat, one-third crop; oats and hay, one-half crop; potatoes, too early to estimate but if drouth continues the crop will be short; apples and pears promise large yield; peaches, total failure.

Flushing, Belmont County.—Prospect for wheat crop somewhat below average; oats and hay, not more than one-half crop; corn may fall below the average. Fruits seriously damaged by the frosts.

The business outlook not the best; during the past winter farmers had to buy feed and with poor crop prospects are not free buyers of merchandise.

Marietta, Washington County.—Wheat crop not over one-half; corn injured by late frosts and will be late; oats not more than two-thirds; hay not over one-half on account of dry weather. Prospects for a large apple crop; peaches, small crop, but more than 1894. No change in business outlook; being an oil center the general depression has not been felt greatly. Not much building being done.

Marion's Ferry, Belmont County.—Extremes in temperature and dry weather have retarded growth of cereals, making prospects unfavorable for the average yield. Corn, about an average crop; wheat and oats below average. Garden truck product will be above average yield. Business outlook brighter than in past two years; the larger manufacturing are running steadily, in most cases with a full complement of hands. Business better than since 1893. Oil development in Belmont county is being pushed, but with no decisive result yet.

New Matamoras, Washington County.—Wheat about one-half crop; oats greatly injured by drouth, prospect for one-half crop; corn injured by the cut worm, causing replanting in sections; apples and pears, a full crop expected; peaches and cherries, very poor. Not much tobacco will be raised on account of the scarcity of plants. Being on the edge of the Sistersville oil field, business is good and is expected to continue good.

St. Clairsville, Belmont County.—The frost and cold weather damaged the crops, so that the average yield will not be more than two-thirds. As the business of the community depends upon the farmers, it is not good.

Woodsville, Monroe County.—Recent showers have improved the crop prospects in Monroe county. Estimated crops: Wheat, one-half; rye, three-fourths; oats, one-third; corn, three-fourths; potatoes, three-fourths; hay and tobacco, one-half. Additional rains will increase this estimate. Business is improving.

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